respect of its DMT project. This request is also under consideration.

Concessions to tea industry

*111. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announcd a package of concessions to tea industry for boosting thereof; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how far tea exports are likely to go up as a result of these concessions?

*THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) Measures taken in the recent past to increase exports of tea include, higher cash compensatory support on value added teas, excise rebate of 50 paise per kg. on export of bulk tea, full rebate of excise duty on exports of packet teas, exemption of excise duty on tea bags, exemptions of customs duty on filter paper used in manufacture of tea bags etc.

These concessions will have a favourable impact on tea exports. During April-September, 1986, exports of tea are provisionally placed at 79.79 million kgs. valued at Rs. 240.47 crores as compared to 72.63 million kgs. valued at Rs. 233.36 crores during the corresponding period of 1985.

Unclaimed provident fund amount

*112. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated unclaimed provident fund amount as on 31st Octorber, 1986 in the country;

(b) whether Government have made any efforts to locate the genuine claimants; and

(c) if so, how much unclaimed provident fund was paid durng the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The information as on 31st October, 1986 is not readily available. However, according to the EPF authorities, a sum of Rs. 16.29 crores was lying unclaimed in their Unclaimed Deposit Account as on 31-3-1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. The EPF authorities have been instructed to make all out efforts to locate the subscribers who have not preferred their claim. Claimants for about Rs. 10.60 crores have been identified by the EPF authorities.

(c) The information is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1983-84	12·93
1984-85	26·40
1985-86	15·18

Closure of foreign branches of nationalised banks

*113. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 percent of the foreign branches of the nationalised banks will be closed down within the next six months as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's drastic reorganisation plan for overseas banking operations;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the total number of foreign branches of nationalised banks at present countrywise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken to rationalise and strengthen the overseas operations of foreign branches of Indian banks. This process would include closing down of non-viable branches. Reserve Bank of India has already initiated the process of scrutiny of the operations of each foreign branch. It would not be possible to indicate at this stage as to how many branches would eventually be closed down.

13 Indian banks have 133 operating branches in 25 countries. The countrywise distribution of branches is given in the Statement.

Statement

Country-wise distribution of foreign Branches of Indian banks

Sl. No.	Country	No. of Branches
1	Bangladesh	1
2	Bahamas	2
3	Belgium	2
4	Bahrain	2
5	Cayman Islands	2
6	Channel Islands	1
7	Fiji Islands	11
8	France	2
9	Guyana	2
10	Hongkong	11
11	Japan	4
12	Kenya	9
13	Mauritius	6
14	Maldive Islands	1
15	Oman	3
16	Panama	1
17	South Korea	1
18	Sri Lanka	6
19	Singapore	7
20	Seychelles	1
21	Thailand	1
22	U.S.A.	7
23	United Kingdom (U.K.)	42
24	United Arab Emirates	7
25	Federal Republic of Germany	1
	TOTAL:	133

Strike by the All India State Bank Officers' Federation

*114. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons which led the All India State Bank Officers' Federation to go on a day's token strike on September 18, 1986; and

(b) what are the details of their demands and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The All India State Bank Officers' Federation had gone on a day's token strike on September 18, 1986 to press for various demands raised by them before the management.

(b) The details of the Federation's demand are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 31] State Bank of India have informed that they had discussions with the representatives of the Federation and those demands which were found reasonable have been conceded. However, the Bank Officers insisted on a decision by the State Bank Management on issues that had industry-wise ramifications and this was obviously not possible.

Retrenchment of workers by NTC

*115. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Textile Corporation has retrenched over 17,000 workers to effect economy as per its labour rationalisation programme;

(b) if so, what is the mill-wise break-up thereof;